

Hello,  
I am R.W. Smith, Operations Manager for WIXY, WLRW, AND WKIO radio stations in Champaign, Illinois.

I am filing comments today regarding the FCC's localism concerns. MB Docket number 04-233.

Our radio stations are extremely local and connected to our communities in a large number of ways.

We provide local news, twice an hour in morning drive and "break-in" throughout the day, if concerns warrant. In addition, we lead the market in severe weather coverage, getting severe weather information on the air immediately when received through the EAS from the National Weather Service. In the vast majority of severe weather situations, we air the information before we even receive it from the EAS primary station in the market.

Our stations broadcast public-affairs programming on a weekly basis in full 30-minute form, interviewing local leaders and civic officials, and we have initiated a public service campaign for local agencies and charities that run 24/7.

The University of Illinois is not only a major university located here, but the area's largest employer. Our stations have an incredible working relationship with the athletic department, the arena which houses everything from sports to concerts to craft shows, and other departments as well. We utilize this relationship to not only cheer on the home team, but to interview officials and faculty to get a local angle on national and world events. We also send hundreds of listeners to athletic events every year.

Our stations are active participants in the AMBER alert program for Illinois as well the EAS system.

Our stations have partnered with approximately 50 different charities over the last calendar year alone. When possible, and that is most of the time, we request that all monies raised stay in the local community. Most recently, our country station raised nearly \$10,000 for a local family to break ground on their first home through the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

Localism is alive and well at our radio stations. Please take our commitment and my comments seriously.